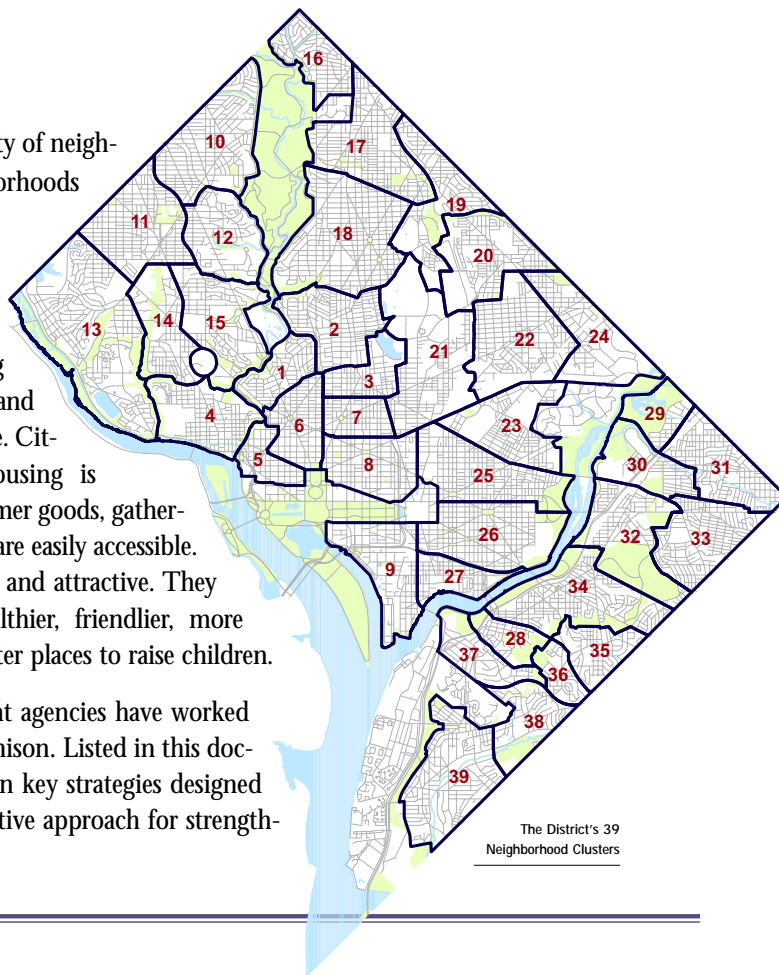


**Washington is**, above all else, a city of neighborhoods, and the health of our neighborhoods is key to the future of our city.

Residents from the city's 39 neighborhood clusters have answered the Mayor's call and participated in creating visions for strengthened, revitalized, and more livable neighborhoods of the future. Citizens want neighborhoods where housing is decent and affordable, and where consumer goods, gathering places and neighborhood amenities are easily accessible. They seek an environment that is clean and attractive. They want communities that are safer, healthier, friendlier, more entertaining, more economical, and better places to raise children.

Over the years, citizens and government agencies have worked in good faith for our city - but not in unison. Listed in this document are the "Neighborhood 10" - ten key strategies designed to form a comprehensive and collaborative approach for strengthening our neighborhoods.



## Strategy

# 1

## Empowering Residents: Strategic Neighborhood Action Plans (SNAPs)



Three years ago, Mayor Williams developed Neighborhood Action. The mission of Neighborhood Action is to empower citizens to improve their communities by mobilizing and coordinating the resources of government, businesses, nonprofits, the faith community, neighborhood leaders, and citizens themselves.

ABOVE: Through Visioning Workshops, citizens in each of the city's 39 Neighborhood Clusters created lists of characteristics vital to making their neighborhoods places where people and families can thrive.

As a result of feedback from four Citizen Summits and two Youth Summits, the city engaged in an ambitious, citywide effort to develop a Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) for every neighborhood. Over 1,500 residents participated in the SNAP process.

### What are Strategic Neighborhood Action Plans?

- Community-driven plans that articulate top neighborhood priorities
- A direct link between neighborhoods and government
- A living document that provides citizens with a record of how the city's government will directly respond to your priorities
- The foundation of our City's budget; linking neighborhood priorities with agency strategic planning

### What are the benefits of SNAPs?

- Removes red tape and gives citizens a greater hand in their government
- Creates a forum for residents to articulate and the city to begin addressing many of our neighborhoods' most pressing challenges

- Helps ensure that each neighborhood's top priorities are met and unique qualities preserved
- In many instances, the issues addressed in SNAPs directly link with other neighborhood initiatives - creating synergy in areas that will receive substantial public and private resources

### What has the city and its residents accomplished?

- In July 2002, the City Council approved the Mayor's FY 2003 District Budget, containing approximately 1,600 citizen-driven priorities from all 39 neighborhood clusters
- Mayor Williams released SNAPs to DC residents in October, 2002 as a tool to track the implementation of citizen priorities and agency commitments
- The city has assigned a Neighborhood Planner, Neighborhood Service Coordinator and Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator to each ward

For more information on your SNAP plan, or to contact your Neighborhood Planning Coordinator, contact the Office of Planning at (202) 442-7600